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SALEM, OREGON, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ORDERSGRAFT INQUIRY MADE IN WAR WORK

President Asks Department of Justice to Investigate Rumors Concerning Airplane Construction Program

ACTIVITY OF GUTZON BORGLUM IS EXPLAINED

Sculptor Secured Information on Which to Place Charges Against Service

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Talk of graft and mismanagement in the national airplane construction program, heard for months in senate debate and capitol lobby gossip, culminated today in a presidential order for an investigation by the department of justice. Almost simultaneously it became known that Major General Squiter, chief signal officer and until recently in direct charge of army aviation, had demanded a military court of inquiry.

The White House in announcing President Wilson's action made public a telegram received Saturday from Howard Coffin, former chairman of the aircraft board, urging an official inquiry "that reputations of innocent men may not be ruined," and a series of letters and telegrams exchanged between the president and Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, to whom is attributed responsibility for statements that corruption in the expenditure of funds and pro-German intrigue has hindered airplane production.

Assurance Given.

There also was a letter written by the president today to Senator Thomas of Colorado, a member of the senate-military committee, assuring him that every instrumentality of the department of justice will be used to pursue charges of dishonesty or malvernum of any kind if Mr. Borglum's allegations are found worthy of serious consideration. Senator Thomas laid before the president last week assertions made to members of the committee by the sculptor.

The exact status of Mr. Borglum as an investigator, which until now has been more or less of a mystery to the public, is cleared up by the correspondence. It develops that after the sculptor had written to Secretary Tumulty last November in regard to the alleged defects in the aviation organization and the desirability of having certain experts called in, the president asked him to present his ideas. Late, on January 2, the president wrote a letter to Mr. Borglum asking him to come to Washington and lay the matter before the secretary of war, and with the aid of a member of the secretary's personal staff discover the facts by personal investigation. Borglum did this, and on March 29 the president wrote him that he had placed the matter he had furnished at the disposal of gentlemen to whom he had committed the task of making a systematic inquiry into the whole aviation situation. These gentlemen were the special committee, headed by H. Snowden Marshall of New York, whose preliminary report preceded the recent reorganization of the army aviation service and the appointment of John D. Ryan as director general.

EMERGENCY FOOD BILL REPORTED

Measure Would Carry \$11,712,283 for Agricultural Activities

WASHINGTON, May 6.—An emergency food appropriation bill carrying a total of \$11,712,283 for agricultural activities authorized by the food production act of last August, was favorably reported to the house today by the committee on agriculture. Besides this amount the measure would make available some \$6,500,000 previously authorized for the purchase and sale of seed to farmers for cash at cost.

WEATHER

Tuesday fair and warmer; frost in the morning; moderate northwest winds.

Mexicans Murder Entire Family at Lamariposa

EAGLE PASS, Texas, May 6.—Mexican bandits have murdered the entire family of Frederick Hillcoat at Lamariposa, in the Santa Rosa mountains near Muzquiz, Mexico, about 250 miles south of Eagle Pass, according to a telegram received here today. Besides Hillcoat, his wife and son, Jerry, and sister-in-law, Miss G. Lamare, were killed.

Draft of Regulations Is Ready for Approval

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Final draft regulations for registering German women in this country today went to Attorney General Gregory for approval and probably will be announced within a week. The date for registering the women then will be set.

OFFICERS GIVEN GERMAN ORDERS

Award Made as Result of Defense of Zeebrugge and Ostend—Losses Small

AMSTERDAM, May 6.—"In connection with the splendidly carried out defense against the British attempt to blockade Zeebrugge and Ostend and land at those ports," says the Berlin Vossische Zeitung in Sunday's edition, "a shower of orders has rained upon various persons."

PLACE RATES ON AIRPLANE MAIL

Senate Adopts Bill Providing Limit of 24 Cents Per Ounce in Service

WASHINGTON, May 6.—A bill authorizing the post office department to charge not in excess of 24 cents an ounce or fraction thereof for the transportation of mail by airplane was adopted today by the senate. The measure now goes to the house.

WHEAT BURNED IN WAREHOUSES

Huge Conflagration in St. Louis Destroys Valuable Elevators and Sheds

ST. LOUIS, May 6.—Fire which started this afternoon in a warehouse of the Independent Packing company in North St. Louis, destroyed five storage houses of the packing company, the Rogers grain elevator, with several hundred thousand bushels of wheat, the four-story building of the Union Packing company and a number of storage sheds.

Bill Would Change Names of Berlin and Germany

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Cities, towns, or hamlets bearing the name "Berlin" or "Germany" or cities or towns having streets so named would be required to change them to "Liberty," "Victory," or other names under a bill introduced in the house today by Representative Smith of Michigan.

SHELL STORM DIRECTED AT U.S. SOLDIERS

Projectiles Contain Gas and High Explosives—Australians and Canadians Hold Vital Sectors

EXPECT TO RESUME HEAVIER FIGHTING

Attack on Arras Sector Anticipated as One of Next Moves of Germans

OFFICIAL SUMMARY.

Australian and Canadian troops are in action in the British lines along the vital sectors of the battle front in France.

The Australians have struck the Germans near Morlancourt between the Ancre and Somme rivers, east of Amiens and have advanced their lines upward of three-quarters of a mile, as a result of two assaults on the Teutonic positions.

The Canadians have appeared in the Arras sector, further south than they have been since the battles in this region began March 21. This part of the line is most important as it defends Arras to the southwest and includes localities such as Neuville-Vitasse, Mercatel and Bois-leux-St. Mars, where there have been bitter struggles since the Germans launched their great offensive.

JUDGE ORDERS LITERATURE TO BE EXHIBITED

Vanderveer's Objections to Introduction of Pamphlets Over-ruled

MOVE IS TIME SAVER

Evidence Not Limited to Set Period—I. W. W. Case in Full Swing

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Germany and Holland Agree on Transportation

THE HAGUE, Sunday, May 5.—In announcing to the Dutch chamber today that Holland and Germany had reached an agreement, Foreign Minister Louzon explained the settlement of the German demand for transport over the Dutch railway by way of Roermond. Germany, he said, had agreed to exclude from transport, airplanes, arms and munitions, while there never had been any question of the transport of troops. The foreign minister said Germany had undertaken to limit sand and gravel sent through Dutch waterways to a maximum of 1,600,000 tons and had promised not to use material for military purposes.

New Chilean Ambassador to United States Named

SANTIAGO, Chile, May 6.—Eduardo Suarez Mujica has been named Chilean ambassador to the United States.

Corrupt Practices Are Attacked by Measure

WASHINGTON, May 6.—A bill to penalize corrupt practices in the election of senators and representatives was favorably reported today by the senate privileges and election committee. Penalties of \$1000 fine or one year imprisonment or both, are provided.

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HUNS STARVE PRISONERS IN HARZ MINES

Shameful Treatment of Captives Told by American Soldiers—Thin Cabbage Soup Only Nourishment

HOT CHAMBER MEANS OF PUNISHING MEN

Deaths From Deliberate Exposure to Cold Not Infrequent

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, MAY 6.—American prisoners of war are being shamefully treated in German prison camps, if all have had the experience on an American interviewed by a French soldier, also a prisoner in Germany, just before he escaped. The Frenchman's story, as told to American officers, follows:

"A short time before I left Hameln, Hanover, I was able to have a few minutes interview with an American soldier who was taken prisoner during the three months he was in the Harz mines he had lost thirty pounds. He was a man who was solidly built and it could be easily seen that he had been vigorous and healthy, but when I saw him he was incredibly thin and so weak he could hardly cross a room without stopping repeatedly, leaning on pieces of furniture or supporting himself on boxes piled there."

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Pro-German Activity in Porto Rico Is Uncovered

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 6.—Living evidence of pro-German and anti-conscription activity in Porto Rico reached here today on an American steamship, which arrived from the island. Federal marshals had on board as prisoners Gerard Leiblich, a German veterinary surgeon of San Juan, convicted of offering bribes to soldiers to desert upon their arrival in France, and go over to the German side; and Florencio Romero, a wealthy Porto Rican, convicted of spreading literature against the draft and of attempting to form an anti-militarist league. Each was found guilty of sedition in Porto Rico and sentenced to four years in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

Employees of Associated Press Buy Liberty Bonds

NEW YORK, May 6.—The employees of the Associated Press subscribed for \$49,000 to the third liberty loan. This amount was divided among 484 subscribers. The previous loan totals were, first \$30,000; second, \$44,000. These figures do not include the subscriptions made by the association itself.

SOVIET TROOPS ARE DISARMED

General Antonoff Resigns Rank of Commander—Propose Boundary

LONDON, May 6.—A Russian wireless message received here today says:

"The ex-chief General Commander Ovsienko Antonoff has sent a declaration to the government of the Russian republic, stating that the soviet troops have retreated beyond the frontier of Ukraine and have been disarmed in accordance with the Brest-Litovsk treaty. General Antonoff announces the cessation of hostilities against the Germano-Haidamak troops and resigns the rank of commander-in-chief of the southern republic."

Members of Jap Consulate at Irkutsk Held as Spies

LONDON, May 6.—A Reuter dispatch from Tokyo says that the Russian authorities at Irkutsk have arrested the Japanese vice-consul and also the president of the Japanese association on the charge of being military spies.

INTERPRETER ON WITNESS STAND

Lieutenant Marchand Takes Part in Trial of Directors of Bonnet Rouge

PARIS, May 6.—Lieutenant Marchand, an interpreter in the French army, and an expert in German propaganda, was the principal witness at the trial of the directors of the defunct Socialist and Germanophile newspapers, Bonnet Rouge, today. He showed the similarity between the policy pursued by the Bonnet Rouge and that of the Gazette of Ardennes, a paper which the Germans published in the occupied districts of northern France, using the French language.

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CAMOUFLAGE, SAYS MAYOR TO HAMILTON

Keyes Takes Issue on Request That Council Ask Service Commission to Probe Need of New Rates

MANAGER DEFENDS POSITION IN CASE

Merely Wants Assurance That City Will Abide by Commission's Order

Mayor Keyes took sharp issue last night with the ordinance committee of the city council and with Manager W. M. Hamilton of the local division of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company on a resolution which Mr. Hamilton asked the city council to pass, requesting the public service commission to investigate rate charges for use of gas in Salem and to allow an increase if the investigation shows that the present rate is too low for the company's welfare. Aldermen McClelland and Ward stood with the Mayor who sent Alderman Wilson to the chair and took the floor to make his argument. A motion by the mayor that the question be deferred and made a special order at the next meeting was passed.

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